



# NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



## NEMS NEWS

May 2011



For more information:

[www.nems.nih.gov](http://www.nems.nih.gov)

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### “THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT”

*Each month we will spotlight an employee or topic of interest at the NIH.*

Our spotlight is shining this month on the May HHS sustainability goal of Transportation and Telework.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) states that transportation is one of the main sources of global warming pollution. Smog, carbon monoxide, and other harmful particulates from transportation can exacerbate various respiratory illnesses and cause other health problems.

About 1/3 of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions and 23% of global emissions are caused by transportation, according to several environmental group estimates.

To keep pace with growing mobility demands worldwide, recent efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and dependence of fossil fuel have shifted into high gear. Here are some reasons why you should consider Telework:

- Convenience and comfort make working from home the perfect place for online training or that special project.
- Helping us to reach our sustainability goals.
- New technology that is available to NIH employees such as Office Communicator lets you communicate with fellow employees and you can interact with meetings from home. You can even allow others access to your desktop.
- Gas prices....need I say more.
- BRAC is the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). As a result of the 2005 BRAC decisions, Maryland will take on many new responsibilities in homeland security and defense. What this means for us is that over the next few years, 2,400 more employees with a doubling of the patient load are expected to be at the New Walter Reed Army campus directly across the street at the National Naval Hospital site in Bethesda. Fort Detrick in Frederick County is expected to add approximately 2,000 jobs too. This will mean an increased time of 30-45 minute commute for the average NIH employee.
- With the space shortage that some offices are challenged with on the campus of NIH, hoteling (sharing one office space at least 2 employees) is one of the perfect solutions to managing space effectively and efficiently.



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### Some Highlights from Earth Day 2011:

The Earth Day venue was changed this year, last minute, due to the threat of ominous weather. We are usually located on the lawn in front of Building 1 but instead this year was located in the South Lobby of Building 10 with our Scales & Tales, and Bugs exhibits. Along the corridor leading to Masur was our ever popular Tree Seedlings. The main event was held in the reception area of Masur. Despite the last minute change we had a huge crowd and lots of fun and information for all. Thanks for joining us.



### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Green Team Leads Council Meeting

Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00  
Bldg 31/6C Room 7

#### BIKE TO WORK DAY

Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Sustainable Labs Working Group

Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30  
31/6C Room 7

